

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01771 160225Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

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USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /082 W

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R 160141Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9975

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, ID, PT, PFOR, SHUM

SUBJECT: TIMOR: DUNN TESTIMONY

1. AUSTRALIAN MARCH 16 PRESS FILLED WITH FRONT-PAGE STORIES OF ALLEGED INDONESIAN QTE THREAT UNQUOTE TO STAGE QTE DEMONSTRATION AND OTHER MASS ACTIONS END QTE AGAINST AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN JAKARTA IF GOA ALLOWS ALLEGATIONS OF INDONESIAN ATROCITIES IN TIMOR TO CONTINUE. ACCORDING TO A DFA SPOKESMAN, THE AUSTRALIAN AMBAS RDOR IN JAKARTA, RICHARD WOOLCOTT, WAS ALSO SUMMONED TO THE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ON MARCH 15 AND GIVEN A VERBAL QTE REPRIMAND. END QTE ACCORDING TO PRESS, MR. MALIK SAID QTE IF MR. DUNN SPEAKS ABOUT THE ATROCITIES THEN WE CAN RECALL HOW THE BLACK MEN WERE CRUELLY TREATED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUSTRALIA. END QTE INDONESIA REPORTEDLY HAS ALSO TOLD THE GOA THAT TESTIMONY BY DUNN COULD NOT ONLY HARM RELATIONS WITH CANBERRA, BUT BETWEEN INDONSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE U.S. AND HOLLAND.

2. QUESTIONED IN PARLIAMENT, FONMIN PEACOCK REFUSED COMMENT ON AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO THE ALLEGED QTE REPRIMAND END

QTE TO MR. WOOLCOTT. IN A FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH TO PARLIA-
MENT, PEACOCK MADE ONLY A BRIEF REFERENCE TO THE TIMOR ISSUE.

HE SAID:

"THE OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF FORCE TO SETTLE PROBLEMS
IN THE REGION HAS BEEN CLEARLY REGISTERED AND STILL STANDS.
BUT THROUGHOUT WE HAVE STRIVEN TO MAINTAIN CLOSE AND
FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT AND TO
CONTAIN OUR DIFFERENCES OVER THE TIMOR QUESTION. TO JEOPARDIZE
THESE RELATIONS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN AUSTRALIA'S INTERESTS
AND WOULD NOT HAVE BENEFITTED THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR.
"MR. PEACOCK SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD INHERITED A TIMOR
SITUATION WHICH WAS "ALREADY FAR DEVELOPED" AND THAT MOST
OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXERTING INFLUENCE HAD PASSED.
"SHORT OF PHYSICAL INTERVENTIONS - AND I DO NOT THINK THAT WAS
CONTEMPLATED BY ANY RESPONSIBLE AUSTRALIAN - OUR PURCHASE
ON THE SITUATION WAS SLIGHT."

3. COMMENT: THE ALLEGED INDONESIA QTE REPRIMAND END QTE
TO WOOLCOTT AND THREATENED DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN JAKARTA HAVE OUTRAGED THE AUSTRALIAN
PUBLIC. IT WILL STRENGTHEN AUSTRALIA SUSPICIONS RE
INDONESIAN ACTIONS IN TIMOR. AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, IT
WILL LEAD TO FURTHER PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND DEBATE
WHICH WILL TEND TO WORSEN ALREADY STRAINED RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE ALLEGED GOI THREATS TO
AUSTRALIA WERE PROBABLY THE WORST TACTICS THAT THE INDO-
NESIANS COULD HAVE EMPLOYED IN THE CURRENT SITUATION.
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END COMMENT. PERCIVAL

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